Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A mat for reducing the disturbance of particulate matter by wind created during the landing of a helicopter on the mat when the mat is placed on the particulate matter, the mat including:

(a) a first wind permeable layer of ~~coarse~~ mesh material; and

(b) a second wind permeable layer of ~~coarse~~ mesh material,~~material;~~ wherein:

~~wherein~~ the first layer is held in a substantially fixed position ~~relative to~~ on top of the second layer without an intervening layer between the first and second layers, and the first layer is attached to the second layer in a peripheral region;~~each layer of coarse mesh material includes at least one of a natural fiber and a plastic fiber,~~

~~each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50 km/h and the first layer is attached to the second layer in the peripheral region.~~

the first and second layer of mesh material is a knitted material with an average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm;

the average separation between the first layer and the second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm;

each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50%, the porosity being the proportion of surface area of the mesh material which consists of holes rather than fibers; and

each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50 km/h based on the average stitch length, the average separation, and the porosity of the first and second mesh layers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The mat according to claim 11~~claim 12~~ wherein each layer of ~~coarse~~ mesh material is formed from plastics fibers.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A helicopter landing mat, including one or more mats according to claim 11, further comprising a peripheral region which has a greater mass per unit area than the combined mass per unit area of each layer of the ~~coarse~~ mesh material.

17. (Previously Presented) The helicopter landing mat according to claim 16, wherein the mat has a length and a width which exceed the rotor span of a helicopter.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind, including the steps of:

(a) covering the surface with the mat of claim 11; and

(b) fixing the mat to the surface at a plurality of points around the periphery of the mat.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein each layer of the mesh material is a knitted material made from plastics fibres with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm, and each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50% and a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.